

REMARKS

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueda et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,985,014 ("Ueda") on the grounds that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use polypropylene glycol and a pigment. Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection.

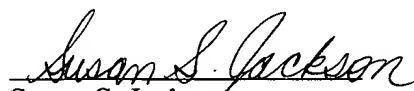
Applicants note the Examiner's admission that Ueda fails to exemplify the use of polypropylene glycol and a pigment as claimed by Applicants and that Ueda fails to show any example incorporating them. Ueda discloses a generic group of compounds of which polypropylene glycol is a member. Ueda does not recognize any criticality associated with polypropylene glycol. Ueda merely discloses a laundry list of compounds, and polyethylene glycol falls into this generic group of compounds. In fact, Ueda states that polyethylene glycol is preferred and polyethylene glycol is used in all of its examples. Polyethylene glycol is a material that Applicants specifically demonstrate in the comparative examples of the present application as not having the same benefits and achieving the same results as polypropylene glycol in the composition of the present invention. Applicants further contend that Ueda does not teach or suggest all of the unexpected benefits associated with the present invention. For example, Ueda does not address or solve the problem of improving the dwell performance or the wet fastness of pigments as does the present invention. Also, although Ueda lists pigments in a generic list of colorant types, all of its examples are dye based as opposed to pigment based.

Applicants also contend that there are unexpected results associated with the present invention. Specifically, Applicants' specification demonstrates the unexpected results associated with the present invention. For example, Example 3 in Table 16 shows the desired dwell

performance achieved with polypropylene glycol and the undesired dwell performance achieved with polyethylene glycol. Applicants' specification also demonstrates the unexpected benefit to wet fastness with the claimed combination of polypropylene glycol and pigment. See, for example, Examples 5-8 demonstrate the superior wet fastness achieved with the present invention. In contrast, Comparative Examples 1 and 2 demonstrate that all glycols do not produce equal results. Accordingly, Applicants contend that there are unexpected results associated with the present invention. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully urged that the present claims are in condition for allowance and reconsideration is requested. An early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosures:
Petition for One Month Extension of Time